

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicants: Hiroaki ITO *et al.*  
Title: A PREVENTIVE OR THERAPEUTIC AGENT FOR INFLAMMATORY  
BOWEL DISEASE COMPRISING IL-6 ANTAGONIST AS AN ACTIVE  
INGREDIENT  
Appl. No.: 10/677,227  
Filing Date: 10/3/2003  
Examiner: Prema Maria MERTZ  
Art Unit: 1646  
Confirmation Number: 8597

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated March 12, 2009, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Applicants enclose with this amendment a Petition for Extension of Time to make this response timely.

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: